

Drawing Amendments

Applicants submit herewith replacement FIGS. 7, 10 and 12 that correct typographical errors in various reference characters.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-24 have been considered in the Office Action.

The Drawings have been objected to for incorrectly designating certain reference characters.

Claims 1-24 have been provisionally rejected based on obviousness-type double patenting based on claims 29-42 of U.S. application Serial number 10/808,910.

Claims 1-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter because the claimed methods allegedly produce no useful, tangible or concrete result.

Claims 1-42 have been rejected under U.S.C. 35 § 102(e) as anticipated by Teo et al. U.S. Patent No. 7,293,077 (“Teo”).

Reply to Drawing Objections

Applicants have amended the specification and drawings to correct various typographical errors. In particular, applicants have amended FIGS. 7, 10 and 12 to correct reference characters associated with directory server 20, second network 22, third network 24. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the drawing objections.

Reply to provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

Applicants submit herewith Terminal Disclaimers disclaiming the terminal part of any patent that issues on the present application that extends beyond the expiration date of any patent granted on application Serial number 10/808,910. Applicants submit that the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer obviates the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

Reply to § 101 Rejections

Applicants respectfully disagree that the original claims recite non-statutory subject matter. nevertheless, to move this case along, applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to more particular describe and distinctly claim the invention. Support for the

amended claims may be found in the application at least at page 12, line 7 through page 14, line 6.

Amended claims 1 and 13 recite methods that include receiving a query message from a first network device, parsing the query message to extract a query from the query message, processing the query by searching a directory table on a third network to identify a second network device coupled to the first network, formulating a reply message that includes information about the identified network device, and sending the reply message to the first network device. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims adequately recite statutory subject matter, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 101 rejections of claims 1-9 and 13-21.

Reply to §102(e) Rejections

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 13 to more particularly describe and distinctly claim the invention. In particular, amended claim 1 recites a method for use with a first network device coupled to a first network, the first network coupled to a second network, the first network device comprising a source address of the first network device on the second network, the method including: (a) receiving a query message from the first network device, the query message comprising the source address of the first network device and a query; (b) parsing the query message to extract the source address and the query from the query message; (c) processing the query by searching a directory table on a third network to identify a second network device coupled to the first network, the second network device comprising information identifying the second device on the second network; (d) formulating a reply message that includes the identifying information; and (e) sending the reply message to the first network device.

Amended claim 13 recites a method for use with first and second network devices coupled to a first network, the first network coupled to a second network, the first network device comprising information identifying the first network device on the first network, the second network device comprising information identifying the second network device on the first network, the method including: (a) receiving a first identification message from the first network device, the first identification message comprising the identifying information of the first network device; (b) parsing the first identification message to extract the identifying information of the first network device;

(c) registering the first network device in a directory table according to the identifying information of the first network device; (d) receiving a query message from the second network device, the query message comprising the identifying information of the second network device and a query; (e) parsing the query message to extract the identifying information of the second network device and the query from the query message; (f) processing the query by searching the directory table to identify the first network device based on the identifying information of the second network device; and (g) formulating a reply message that includes the identifying information of the first network device; and (h) sending the reply message to the second network device.

Teo does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the §102(e) rejections of claims 1 and 13 be withdrawn. Because claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, and claims 14-21 depend from claim 13, applicants further respectfully request that the §102(e) rejections of claims 2-9 and 14-21 also be withdrawn

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, applicants submit that this application, including claims 1-9 and 13-21, is allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner allow this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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